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Certain statistics in reference to the flora are of general interest. The overwhelming preponderance of dicotyledons is shown in the following enumeration: dicotyledons 2109, monocotyledons 447, gymnosperms 11, pteridophytes 35. The largest families are Compositæ (328 spp.), Gramineæ (182), Leguminosæ (146), Caryophyllaceæ (141), Cruciferae (139), Rosaceæ (124), Labiatae (109), Umbelliferae (109). Certain families are conspicuous by their poor representation, as Malvaceæ (11 spp.), Ericaceæ (14), Asclepiadaceæ (3), Polemoniaceæ (1), Acanthaceæ (1), Verbenaceæ (2). The large genera are *Carex* (55 spp.), *Hieracium* (38), *Centaurea* (35), *Veronica* (31), *Ranunculus* (29), *Dianthus* (27), *Silene* (27), *Trifolium* (27), and *Galium* (25). *Aster* is represented by but four species, and *Solidago* by one. *Festuca* is the largest genus of Gramineæ, and *Verbascum* of Scrophulariaceæ. Aside from the grasses and sedges, the monocotyledons form little more than 6 per cent. of the vascular flora.—J. M. C.

The flora of the West Indies.³

UNDER the editorship of Dr. Urban we are promised a valuable work on the flora of the West Indies. This very important region has been in the possession of so many governments that the literature of the flora is badly scattered. It is a great boon to botanists to have it brought together in compact form. The work will be of especial value to American botanists, who are largely interested in the study of the flora of Mexico and the Central American states.

This first part is by Dr. Urban himself, and is a remarkably complete and painstaking bibliography. Not only is the literature of the region presented, but under each title is a synopsis of the contribution, so that one may know just how important a publication each title represents. At the close of the part is a conspectus of the literature by islands and also by plant groups. It would seem as if any published botanical information in reference to any island or plant group can at once be discovered in this remarkable bibliography.

The work will be issued in parts at indefinite intervals, each part containing about 160 pages, and three parts forming a volume. The subscription price will vary from \$2 to \$3 for each part.—J. M. C.

Nature study.

THE increase of interest in nature study has called forth a large number of publications intended to assist teachers and pupils in this work. Many of these have been little more than compilations of fantastic stories about natural

³ URBAN, IGNATIUS: *Symbolæ Antillanæ seu fundamenta floræ Indiæ occidentalis*. Vol. I. Part I. *Bibliographia Indiæ occidentalis botanica*. 8vo. pp. 192. *Fratres Borntraeger*: Berolini. 1898. M 10.80.